

The year ahead

The Year Ahead, from page 1

Oak Street opens as a grade 7-8 middle school, and the high school returns to its intended configuration of grades 9-12 (Beal remains with Kindergarten and some grade 1). Curriculum and school organization, staff assignments, student transition issues, parent meetings, and communications will be a focus of the administration throughout the year. We will define middle level education, as we want it to be in Shrewsbury!

The article on the Middle School Task Force describes a high priority for us this year.

All of the above points to the challenge to sustain the momentum of a fine school system in the years ahead. The last time we added a new school, without closing an existing one, was in 1997 when the Floral St. School opened. The school budget that year was 13.85% greater than that of the previous year. The increase was necessary to hire staff for the 600+ students who attended the school. This year, the superintendent's office will send its budget proposal to the school committee in November, nearly three months earlier than in past years. Given budgetary constraints, the selectmen, finance committee, and school committee will need to talk soon about resources, the levy limit, and strategies to maintain the quality of the schools that continues to be a source of pride for Shrewsbury. This superintendent and his administration look forward to providing all the support needed for that discussion as we work very hard to build the most responsible budget possible for FY05!

Housing Starts

April-10
May-4
June-6
July-13

The 2000 Federal Census shows Shrewsbury's population at 31,640.

Shrewsbury School Journal

Communications Committee

The non-profit *Shrewsbury School Journal* is published three times a year and reaches every household in the diverse and growing town of Shrewsbury. It is published by the central office of the Shrewsbury Public Schools with the help and expertise of many individuals. The mission of the *Shrewsbury School Journal* is to provide an accurate source of information about our school system and the town in which we live. We hope to foster a community of continuous learners.

Anthony J. Bent
Superintendent

Judith Evans
Assistant Superintendent

Dawna Alphonse
Project Coordinator

Nancy Hochstein
School Committee Member

Preschool project nears completion

Preschool Expansion, from page 1

would think that instead of "reflecting" I would be rejoicing to have the project nearing completion. Believe me, I will not miss my daily ritual of wiping plaster dust off of my desk! However, these minor inconveniences have been far out-weighed by how positive the entire experience has been for us as a preschool community. We are so appreciative of everyone who has remained flexible and supportive of our needs. We thank school administration, our school committee, and the residents of Shrewsbury for advocating for the expansion. We thank the Special Education Department and the Spring Street Elementary School for opening their doors to us when we so desperately needed more space. We also thank the very patient staff of SPAC and our Parker Road neighbors for enduring the construction for the past eight months. Most importantly, we thank the kind, caring, and hard working individuals associated with Masiello Construction and the expansion project. Their skill has provided us with a beautiful addition to our school. Their friendship has provided us with so much more. I speak for all of the staff and children of the Parker Road Preschool when I say that our school will not be the same without our "Bob the Builders." It is because of what they have accomplished, that we have truly packed and unpacked our boxes for the last time.

So, as the last of the trim is painted, I do look back at the past school year as a truly exciting time for us as a preschool community. The staff and families of Parker Road Preschool work so hard to provide a nurturing and enriching preschool experience for all children.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

The main entrance for the Parker Road Preschool.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

The new parking lot provides 42 more parking spaces.

Spending even a short amount of time at our school allows children and adults to feel supported and welcomed. Knowing that this extends

far beyond the walls of our building is something that all of us have learned and will certainly cherish for years to come.

Food service department news

BETH NICHOLS
FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR

Breakfast Program

A Breakfast Program is offered daily at all schools before the school day begins. A variety of cereals, fruits, pastries, morning breads, yogurts, juice and milk are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA requirements for good nutrition. The cost of breakfast is \$1.25. Free and reduced price (\$.30) breakfasts are also available to families with financial need.

School Breakfast Serving Times

Beal:	8:30-9:00
Coolidge:	8:00-8:15
Floral Street:	8:30-9:00
High School:	6:50-7:20
Paton:	8:30-8:45
Spring Street:	8:30-8:45
Middle School:	7:20-7:50

Lunch Program

A Lunch Program is offered daily at the Elementary and Middle Schools. A minimum of two entrees is offered daily. In addition a variety of sandwiches, soups, milks, juices, fruits, vegetables, salad bars and breads are offered daily. All meals meet the USDA nutritional guidelines. The cost of lunch is \$2.00. Free and reduced price (\$.40) lunches are also available to families with financial need.

A Lunch Program is offered daily at the High School. Three hot entrée choices are offered daily. In addition Domino Pizza, a Salad Bar, a made to

order Deli Bar, and Grab and Go Salads and Sandwiches are offered daily. In addition a variety of sandwiches, soups, milks, juices, fruits, vegetables, and breads are offered daily. A Snack Bar is open during lunch hours offering Domino Pizza, sandwiches and a variety of a-la-carte items. Hot entrée meals cost \$2.00. All other meals cost \$2.50. All meals meet the USDA nutritional guidelines. Free and reduced price (\$.40) lunches are also available to families with financial need.

Free and Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Applications

Free and reduced price meals are available to students if there is financial need. Applications will be sent home to all families in the fall. Applications must be submitted yearly in the fall. If you need an application at any time during the year call the Food Service Office at 508-841-8819 and one will be mailed to you. Forms are also available at each school's nurse's office. Eligibility is governed by guidelines set by the Department of Education. A written notification will be sent to all families stating what program they qualify for.

Menus

The monthly menu is printed in *The Shrewsbury Chronicle*. The menu is also posted on the Shrewsbury Home Page website at www.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us. The Food Service is committed to serving what is on the printed menu.

Prepaid Lunch Plan

The Prepaid Lunch Plan is available for the 2003-2004 school year. Meals

at the Elementary/Middle/High Schools cost \$2.00. Books of 20 -\$2.00 lunch tickets can be purchased for \$40.00. The High School also offers a \$2.50 meal. Books of 20 -\$2.50 meals cost \$50.00. To purchase tickets send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your check for the number of books requested to: Shrewsbury School Food Service, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. Tickets will be mailed back to you. Tickets are non-refundable.

Tickets may also be purchased at the School Department Office at the Town Hall. Tickets will be sold Monday- Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets must be purchased by the book. Checks will be the only type of payment accepted- no cash or credit cards. Tickets are honored from one school year to another.

Please call with questions

Please contact the Food Service Department with any questions, suggestions, or ideas. The Food Service Department is located at Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA. 01545. The telephone number is 508-841-8819. Each school site has a manager also available to speak with you. The numbers are as follows.

Beal.....	841-8874
Coolidge.....	841-8889
Floral St.....	841-8720
High School.....	841-8848
Middle School.....	841-8681
Paton.....	841-8635
Spring St.....	841-8708